



Observers for Haryana Assembly Elections

Why in News?

According to the sources, [The Election Commission of India](#) would **deploy over 400 observers** for the **Assembly elections in Haryana** and Jammu and Kashmir.

Key Points

- The poll body deploys observers under [Section 20B of the Representation of the People Act, 1951](#) and **plenary powers of the Constitution**.
- In a meeting, the Election Commissioner emphasised that the officials should observe the complete election ecosystem for [free and fair polls](#) and asserted that the role of observers becomes all the more critical in these elections.
- The observers were strictly directed to remain accessible to all parties, candidates and voters for timely redressal of their grievances.

Section 20B in The Representation of the People Act, 1951

- The Election Commission may **nominate a Government officer as an Observer to monitor the conduct of elections in a constituency** or group of constituencies and perform other functions entrusted by the Commission.
- The Observer **shall have the power to direct the returning officer to stop the counting of votes or not to declare the result** if in the observer's opinion booth capturing has taken place at a large number of polling stations or ballot papers are unlawfully taken, destroyed, lost, or tampered with to such an extent that the result of the poll cannot be ascertained.
- Then the Observer shall **report the matter to the Election Commission**.

Election Commission of India

- It is an autonomous constitutional authority responsible for administering Union and State election processes in India.
 - It was established in accordance with the Constitution on **25th January 1950** (celebrated as National Voters' Day). The secretariat of the commission is in New Delhi.
- The body administers elections to the [Lok Sabha](#), [Rajya Sabha](#), and [State Legislative Assemblies](#) in India, and the offices of the [President and Vice President](#) in the country.
 - It is **not concerned with the elections to panchayats and municipalities** in the states. For this, the Constitution of India provides for a separate [State Election Commission](#).